opening up of STD services immediately. As per the Guidelines already issued by the Government, the position regarding opening of long distance operation is to be reviewed in 1999.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Telephone Tower at Shahapur in Thane District of Maharashtra

1798. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation for erecting a telephone tower at Shahapur in Thane district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government; and

(c) by when the work is expected to be started?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir. The Government have received a representation to erect a Telephone Tower at Shahapur in Thane district of Maharashtra to connect Rural Exchanges of Shahapur Taluka to Taluka Headquarter.

(b) Shahapur Exchanges is already connected with a reliable media of 34 MS. Optical Fibre Media system. The other 7 small rural telephone exchanges at Shahapur are planned to be connected by Optical Fibre Cable Media.

(c) The work planned during 1997-98.

Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

1799. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of villages not having Post Offices in the State;

(c) the number of Post Offices proposed to be opened during current year 1996-97; and

(d) by when all villages in the State are likely to be provided with facility of Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The number of Villages having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh is 14753.

(b) The number of Villages not having Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh is 12296.

(c) Five (5) Extra-Departmental Branch Post Offices and two (2) Departmental Sub Post Offices have been opened during the current year.

(d) Post Offices are opened as Plan activity subject to availability of resources and fulfilment of norms.

MARR Phones in Andhra Pradesh

1800. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Madak, Adilabad, Nizamadad, Warangal and Karimnagar of Andhra Pradesh where MARR phones installed;

(b) the number of MARR phones working, District-wise;

(c) the number of MARR phones removed from villages, district wise, and reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal of reinstallation of MARR phones in the above villages; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER FOR